


LIGHTS and SHADOWS
on our New **MONUMENTS**
England
by Katharine Bartlett
XII—FITZ-JOHN PORTER



FITZ JOHN PORTER STATUE AT PORTSMOUTH, N. H.

IN grim contrast to the story of Gen Devens is that which lies back of another equestrian statue to another Civil War General. The statue of Fitz-John Porter, which was unveiled in Portsmouth, N. H., in 1906, is a lasting reminder of what some have termed "the Dreyfus case of the Civil War." It is also a memorial to a remarkable friendship.

In 1862 Maj Gen Porter, who had an enviable record in the Mexican and Indian Wars, was tried by court-martial, found guilty of disobeying orders and general misconduct and was cashiered. Then he began a fight for vindication unparalleled in American history.

Sixteen years later a board of officers convened by President Hayes examined the evidence and reversed the decision of the court-martial, saying: "These charges and specifications certainly bear no discernable resemblance to the facts of the case as now established."

In spite of this and in spite of the statement of no less an authority than Gen Grant that Porter had been greatly wronged, many persons continued to believe him a traitor. In no place was the controversy more bitter than in the General's birthplace, Portsmouth.

Gen Porter, however, had friends who believed in him through the very blackest of his trouble. One of the foremost of these was R. H. Eddy, a Boston patent lawyer. When Mr Eddy died, back in the early 90's, it was discovered that his will provided \$30,000 for the erection of a Porter monument to be set up in Portsmouth after the General's death. There were some unavailing protests, but the money was turned over to the city treasurer.

When Gen Porter died in 1901 the old bitterness flared out again. Another old friend of Porter's, James E. Kelly, a New York sculptor, had made a model for the statue which the subject of it had approved. An open competition was demanded, but as it was pointed out that the matter had long been agreed on, the contract was finally awarded to Kelly, although at the request of Mrs Porter a new model was made.

Another battle ensued over the selection of a site, the enemies of Porter trying to banish the statue to some obscure quarter of the city. While the pedestal was being carved in a local marble yard attempts to deface it necessitated the placing of an armed guard.

In the end the dead man's friends proved stronger than his enemies and the statue was erected. It now stands in Haven Park, on Pleasant st. When the statue was unveiled Storer Post, U. S. A. R., directed the ceremonies.

**Monday — Judge Joseph Story,
Whose Statue Was Made by His
Own Son.**